

amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, 10 angels swearing I was right would make no difference."

History has vindicated President Lincoln, and now, as War Secretary Edwin Stanton said, he "belongs to the ages."

Through solemn, humble, and steadfast leadership, he guided our Nation through the crisis—the horrific period of conflict between Fort Sumter and Appomattox. Sustained by faith, he stood on principle to preserve our country, to correct a nation's moral failing, and to lead a government of, by, and for the people ever closer toward a more perfect Union.

President Lincoln gave his life—his last full measure of devotion—for our country, and he will forever be remembered for his heroic work to preserve our United States of America.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, which is the day that symbolizes, more than 3 months into the year, that women's wages have finally caught up to what men were paid last year.

Women deserve equal pay for equal work. It is outrageous that in 2015 a woman is still paid less for the same job that a man does. Pay discrimination is wrong. It hurts millions of hard-working families, and it hinders the growth of our economy.

That is why I and many of my colleagues have reintroduced the Paycheck Fairness Act—to ensure that women earn the same pay as men for doing the same work, to ensure that our wives, our sisters, our daughters, our granddaughters are treated fairly in the workplace for doing the same job that the man sitting right next to them does.

Our country should be building an economy that works for everyone so that women and their families can save, buy a home, send their kids to college, and save for retirement. Equal pay for equal work should not ever be a partisan issue. It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that we will allow a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives for this very important legislation.

IN MEMORY OF LAUREN HILL

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I come to the floor to speak today.

Last Friday, Lauren Hill, a basketball player at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, succumbed in her battle with DIPG, a rare form of inoperable brain cancer.

Following her tragic diagnosis, Lauren became an inspiration to an

awful lot of people. After miraculously and courageously playing in her first college basketball game last November, she dedicated her remaining days to combating this dreadful disease, raising more than \$1 million for pediatric cancer research.

While we are obviously saddened by the news of Lauren's passing, I would prefer to focus on just how blessed we have been to witness Lauren's courage and her resiliency and her grace in the face of insurmountable odds. She has touched and inspired our community and, in fact, our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am also deeply grateful to Lauren's family for their willingness to share her story with the rest of us. Our thoughts and our prayers are with them as they grieve the loss of such a remarkable young woman.

ASPEN INSTITUTE PRIZE FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Olympic College for being named a top 10 finalist for the Aspen Institute Prize for Community College Excellence.

Olympic College has earned a reputation as a place that opens doors to opportunity. Whether creating opportunities for future healthcare practitioners, leading a world-class apprenticeship program with the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, or the multitude of other great programs it provides, OC prepares folks for success in school and in life.

This recognition from the Aspen Institute is a testament to OC's president, David Mitchell; to the college's talented faculty and staff; and, importantly, to the students. It is also evidence of the incredible partnerships OC has developed with local employers, with 4-year universities, and with the community.

The record of success is astonishing. Get this: OC has the highest graduation rate of any community college in the State of Washington as 90 percent of students who enter a trades program at OC complete it, and 100 percent are placed in jobs.

I am proud to represent some amazing community colleges, including OC, that have been proven successful in getting people ready to take that next step, whether that is starting a 4-year degree or finding a quality job. I extend to them my congratulations.

FAIRNESS TO VETERANS ACT

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, as Congress begins to take up the critical and long overdue discussion of long-term infrastructure investment, it is

important that we utilize one of our greatest resources—our Nation's veterans.

Right now, there are over 380,000 veteran-owned construction firms across the United States, including thousands in my home State of Pennsylvania. These veteran-owned businesses are primed to play a vital role in the rebuilding of our Nation's roads and bridges. However, right now, when it comes to Federal transportation contracts, we are failing to recognize their full potential.

That is why I have introduced the bipartisan Fairness to Veterans Act in an effort to level the playing field by providing veterans access to existing preferences. Fairness to veterans is a simple idea that says, if any group is going to get special treatment from our government, it should be those who have served in our Armed Forces.

I am proud to have the support of veterans advocacy organizations like the American Legion, local veterans groups, and a bipartisan band of lawmakers in advancing this legislation. I encourage each one of my colleagues to join us as a cosponsor and ensure that we are fighting for and are fair to our Nation's veterans.

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THE NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS REPAIR

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, 45 days from today, temporary funding for the surface transportation trust fund expires. Despite the fact that we have 140,000 bridges that need repair or replacement, 40 percent of the road surface needs substantial investment, and a \$70 billion backlog in our mass transit systems for a state of good repair, the support drops to zero in 45 days. We need an unimaginable amount of money to fund that for the next 5 years. We need \$120 billion.

Where could we find \$120 billion? Well, tomorrow the Republicans are going to repeal the remains of the estate tax. That is that two one-hundredths of 1 percent of estates that are worth more than \$10 million, under the Republican plan, will pay no taxes when they leave that money to their kids—no taxes. It costs \$270 billion to give that tax relief to two one-hundredths of 1 percent of the families in this country.

How about we spend that money rebuilding the Nation's infrastructure, put hundreds of thousands of people to work, benefit all of America with better roads, with safe bridges, with transit systems that don't kill people because of their state of bad repair? Even the wealthy might benefit from that, although they don't use the system because they fly above it in their helicopters and they don't notice from the backseat of their limousines.

ENJOY SOME GOOD EXERCISE FOR A GREAT CAUSE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to a wonderful event taking place this Sunday, April 19, in south Florida, the 15th annual Miami Walk Now for Autism Speaks. According to the CDC, over 3 million individuals in our great country are impacted by an autism spectrum disorder. There have been dramatic scientific advances in our understanding of autism over just the past 5 years, but we must ensure that progress toward effective treatment and a cure continues.

The Miami Walk along with others taking place across our wonderful country will raise vital funds to help support important research and family services—research and services. I urge everyone to get out of the house, enjoy some good exercise for a great cause in sunny south Florida this weekend, and participate in the Miami Walk Now for Autism Speaks.

JOIN ME IN SUPPORTING THE EQUALITY FOR ALL RESOLUTION

(Mr. CARSON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the Equality for All resolution, which declares that gay, lesbian, and transgendered people should be protected from discrimination under the law.

Earlier this month, Mr. Speaker, I watched as my State, the great Hoosier State of Indiana, enacted the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act, giving businesses the right to refuse service based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Over the last few weeks, Mr. Speaker, I have heard from businesses, religious organizations, community leaders, and countless concerned citizens. It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that the vast majority of Americans oppose this kind of discrimination; yet in 2015, it is still legal in over 30 States to discriminate in the workplace, to refuse to sell or rent a home or to turn someone away from your business just because they are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, Mr. Speaker.

As elected representatives, we have responsibility to show America that we are better than this. I encourage all of my colleagues to join us in supporting the Equality for All resolution.

VOTERS WANT MORE DEPORTATIONS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a recent public opinion poll shows that the American people repudiate President Obama's immigration policies. The new Rasmussen Reports national survey found that 62 percent believe the Federal Government is not doing enough to deport illegal immigrants, up 10 points from a year ago. This is the American people's response to the President's executive amnesty orders.

Furthermore, over half feel that illegal immigrants with children born in the U.S. should not be exempt from being sent home. Also, 54 percent think that a child of an illegal immigrant parent should not automatically become a citizen, and an overwhelming 83 percent do not feel illegal immigrants should get government services.

The American people know that illegal immigration is not in America's best interest.

WOMEN NEED EQUAL PAY

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because across the United States women continue to earn less than men for an equal day's work. In fact, women, on average, make 78 cents for every dollar earned by men. For African American and Latina women, those numbers drop even lower. Even nurses, my profession, who many thought were immune to the pay gap, experience this gender discrepancy, often resulting in men who are nurses being paid thousands of dollars more a year than women.

This disparity has real consequences. A woman's economic health has a ripple effect on her family and on our local economies. That is why I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This critical bill would strengthen the 52-year-old Equal Pay Act by closing loopholes and ensuring that women are paid equal wages for equal work.

Today, on Equal Pay Day, I urge our House leadership to bring the Paycheck Fairness Act to the floor for a vote because we know that when women succeed, America succeeds.

PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Parkinson's Awareness Month.

People close to me have been impacted by Parkinson's disease. For me, it is personal. I am proud to serve as a cochair of the Parkinson's Caucus. It is just another way that I can get involved.

Sadly, there is no cure for Parkinson's disease. Treatment is available, but it is often costly or marginally effective. This is not acceptable, as far as I am concerned.

People tell me, Just increase funding at NIH. In the early 2000s, we did; we doubled the budget at NIH, but we didn't double the cures. In addition to adequate funding, we need to think critically about structural changes in our healthcare system. We need to rethink what we are doing and how we are doing it. The 21st Century Cures initiative is giving us an opportunity to find new cures and treatments for people living with rare and chronic conditions like Parkinson's disease.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay Day, which marks how far into the following year a woman must work, on average, to earn as much as a man earned the previous year.

Mr. Speaker, in our great Nation of opportunity, no woman should be making less than her male colleagues for doing similar work, yet in our country women still earn, on average, 78 cents for each dollar earned by a man doing a comparable job.

Discrimination hurts the pocketbook as well as the heart. Equal pay isn't just about fairness. It is about mothers putting food on the table for their children and saving for their own retirement security. That is why Congress must act now, to bring the Paycheck Fairness Act to the floor for a vote and give the victims of gender bias in the workplace the tools they need to seek justice.

MAKE A RIPPLE, CHANGE THE WORLD

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of three people who were victims of a horrific shooting that took place in Overland Park, Kansas, 1 year ago.

On April 13, 2014, the lives of Reat Underwood, William Corporon, and Terri Lamanno were tragically cut short as a self-described anti-Semite opened fire at the Jewish Community Center and Village Shalom retirement community in Overland Park, killing all three victims. But rather than divide our community, this hate-filled act of unspeakable violence has turned into love, faith, and kindness to one another and has caused a groundswell of unity to show that Kansas is a State where people of all religions can call home.

One hero from that day was Mindy Corporon. Mindy lost both her father and her son on the same day. Mindy has been a symbol for courage, as she has turned her loss and pain into kindness and understanding in our community.